

IOWA VERTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**November 17, 2011
Meeting Minutes**

The Governor's Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee met at Conference Room 7 in the Hoover State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa.

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 am. Tom Nichols nominated Dan Prymek to serve as temporary chair until Chairman Scott Norvell arrived. Eve Palmer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Those in attendance were as follows:

Scott Norvell, Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee Member
Tom Nichols, Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee Member
Eve Palmer, Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee Member
Dan Prymek, Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee Member
Camille Valley, Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee Member
Jennifer Moehlmann, Dept. of Administrative Services, General Services Enterprise
Mickel Edwards, Dept. of Corrections
Kathy Shannon, Iowa Veterans Home
Ken Tigges, Dept. of Human Services
Brant Carr, Dept. of Administrative Services, General Services Enterprise
Rob Fulton, Iowa Workforce Development

The following committee members were absent:

Tara Barney, Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee Member
Gary Benshoof, Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee Member

Consent Agenda

Tom Nichols made a motion to approve both sets of meeting minutes (October 20, 2011 and November 3, 2011). Camille Valley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion of 2011 Annual Report to Governor

Chairman Norvell arrived and resumed chairing the committee at 9:15 am. The Committee reviewed the draft Annual Report. Tom Nichols said he loved the format, but hated what he saw on the graphs, although it tells the story of what has happened. Jennifer Moehlmann reported it would cost \$40 - \$80 to create a map showing where the future major maintenance funding would be spent, as had been requested in an earlier discussion. The Committee supported spending \$40 - \$80 to create the map of funding and will look to DAS to finish the report. The Committee will meet again on December 9th from 9 – 10 am to approve the report. The meeting will be held via conference call, but members may also participate from the Main Conference Room at the Facilities Management Center.

Chairman Norvell outlined the history of RIIF. In his assessment, a large part of the assigned tasks (the assessment and reporting structure) have been accomplished, and there is little funding. At the last meeting, he heard a lot about advocacy but is not sure that is the role of the Committee. He acknowledged that the situation is very disappointing, but there are too many commitments given off the RIIF fund to be viable. He proposed starting the discussion about the future of the Committee with the analysis of Executive Order Three provided by Camille Valley. Camille noted she is all for being an advocate and isn't saying the Committee member shouldn't do it individually, but it is not a role for the Committee.

Chairman Norvell noted that he trusts the DAS reporting system, there is accountability. He asked if the reporting would continue if the decision were made to disband the Committee. Jennifer Moehlmann said she would check, but she was sure there would be some type of reporting to the Legislature as part of the annual appropriation request. Camille Valley requested more thoughtful discussion of the issues, but she believed Chairman Norvell's concerns could be addressed by recommending statutory language regarding annual reporting requirements.

Chairman Norvell said the Committee appears to have accomplished its goals; with little current or future funding, is there value in it continuing? Tom Nichols said he really supported having meetings in all facilities to see their conditions and if the meetings will all be in Des Moines, then the Committee should disband. Tom said the Committee needs to go to the facilities to show them support, if nothing else. Chairman Norvell agreed seeing the facilities is important, but it is the role of the Committee? He would love to see the Rebuild Iowa Coalition come back to life and advocate freely for the institutional infrastructure needs. Camille Valley noted they were talking about two separate things. She agreed it was more effective to go to the facilities; but as a Committee, the authority lies to accomplish the Executive Order tasks. Maybe the Committee should continue to revisit the issue and make the annual report a strong tool to show what the State should be investing in.

Chairman Norvell said Dean Ibsen had previously estimated the cost of a new assessment at \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000. He questioned whether the Governor or DAS were prepared to spend that kind of money. Camille Valley suggested they don't have to re-do the survey but could build on the original survey. Tom Nichols noted it is almost impossible to put together a 5 year plan when there is no money. Dan Prymek said he didn't want to see the Committee disband. He believed the number one task of overseeing the inventory and assessment is a big duty. He agreed a new assessment is needed and suggested the report to the Governor should include that recommendation. Dan Prymek said the Committee shouldn't move forward without another study that reflects on the condition of the inventory today vs. the initial study and includes cost estimates of deferred maintenance and the costs of inaction.

Chairman Norvell asked again if the Committee had ever reversed a DAS recommendation. Tom Nichols said there were two times when the Committee said no – one was regarding construction of a radio tower for Iowa Public Radio and the other was a new roof for the Department of the Blind building (the Committee said no, because the Department of the Blind didn't participate in the Committee and didn't plan to participate after the new roof). Camille Valley asked what that meant, since the Executive Order included all vertical infrastructure except Regents. Chairman Norvell said there is a definition of vertical infrastructure that defines what is included and what is not. Dan Prymek recalled an instance where the Committee turned down a request for a parking lot and said there have been others. Camille Valley noted the value of rules is they make the definitions clear.

Dan Prymek said if the Committee ceases to exist, who guarantees each agency gets their fair share? The annual report keeps the process honest. The Committee has been an equalizer to say DAS is doing a good job of splitting up the funding fairly. They might not change things a lot, but they have the ability. Chairman Norvell said it is a code issue if there is concern about DAS' role without the Committee's oversight. Dan Prymek said the Committee hasn't seen a problem, which is why they haven't made changes, but that could change if the Committee doesn't exist.

Chairman Norvell said we all have a passion for and understanding of the depth of the problem. Is the decision on whether there will be a new inventory a reason to continue or disband the Committee? After further discussion, Dan Prymek made a motion for Chairman Norvell to contact the Governor's office, through a letter or a personal meeting, on whether this Committee has value when he is making his decisions. Eve Palmer seconded the motion and the motion passed by a vote of 3 ayes (Dan Prymek, Eve Palmer and Scott Norvell) to 2 nays (Tom Nichols and Camille Valley).

After the motion, Tom Nichols asked for the agencies' perspective on the Committee's visits. Kathy Shannon said she looked forward to the Committee's presence and Mickel Edwards said the Committee process for prioritizing projects is better than how it was done before. Rob Fulton said Iowa Workforce Development would be disappointed if the Committee disbanded.

Chairman Norvell thanked the representatives for their comments. He said he would pursue a meeting with the Governor's office and would send out a copy of the letter to the Committee before the meeting.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:39 am.